

Marilyn from College Station writes:

I urge you to stand firm and do all that you can to repeal/defund this law that is a disaster to employers, employees, and our health care system.

Jack from Woodway writes:

Mr. FLORES, please do all in your power to help fund the government, and please do not fund ObamaCare. As seniors, we cannot afford the increased premiums for our insurance coverage.

Tonya from Waco writes:

I am a small business owner in Waco. I built my business from nothing, and I see the horrible ramifications of ObamaCare on small business. Please stand strong and fight to defund ObamaCare.

Debra from Bryan writes:

The President's health care must be defunded before it destroys our economy, our workforce, our health care system, and our way of life. My insurance will increase 42 percent in 2014, and who knows where it goes from there. As a citizen of the United States, I do not want my tax dollars to fund a train wreck. We simply cannot afford it. Please convince your fellow Representatives they are destroying the working class. There is no way this is good for all of us.

A young man from Brazos County writes:

My current premium for a family plan with a \$5,000 deductible costs \$360 per month. This was canceled due to ObamaCare.

When trying to apply for ObamaCare, he got two new quotes. The first was one with a \$12,700 deductible and cost \$691 per month. When he tried to find a lower deductible, he found an option with a \$4,500 deductible at a cost of \$854 per month. Again, essentially the same coverage for almost 2½ times what he was paying before.

Mr. Speaker, since September 20 the House has approved, on a bipartisan basis, eight bills to fund all or part of the Federal Government, but all but one of these have been blocked by HARRY REID in the Senate.

Mr. Speaker, during this process my colleagues and I have been called arsonists, anarchists, extremists, extortionists, and terrorists. In addition, we have been told that we have bombs strapped to our chests. When I was growing up, I was taught that if you were calling people names then that meant you had nothing meaningful to say.

This fight is about fairness, Mr. Speaker. First, the Americans believe that if a delay for business that gave them \$14 billion worth of benefit was good enough for business, it ought to be good for everybody by delaying the individual mandate for a year.

Secondly, if ObamaCare is good enough for the American people, it is good enough for the President, the Vice President, and all Members of Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all Americans pray for our country during these difficult times.

#### CONSTITUTIONAL BUT UNCONSCIONABLE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. AL GREEN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, what we are doing here in Congress may not be unconstitutional, but it is unconscionable. It is unconscionable for us to have a wholesale shutdown of the government and a piecemeal start up. It is unconscionable to pit needy Americans against needy Americans. It is unconscionable.

It may be lawful to single out some and say, you are among the fortunate that we will bless today, but it's unconscionable. It's wrong. It may be lawful, but it's not right.

It is wrong to decide that persons who happen to be poor, who need WIC, who need the very sustenance that people acquire to exist, food, clothing and shelter, it's wrong to say you are not blessed today. Your time will come, but not today. It may be constitutional, but it's unconscionable.

It is unconscionable for us, in the richest country in the world, to conclude that a mother who has a child, making \$15,080 a year, working full-time and living below the poverty line, it's unconscionable for us to push a system that will cause her to work full-time and not have insurance. ObamaCare, the Affordable Care Act, by any name you call it, will allow that mother to get insurance for herself and her child. It may not be unconstitutional to adhere to a principle that would cause a repeal of the Affordable Care Act. It is unconscionable, however, to do so in such a way as to prevent this mother from having insurance for her child.

I came to Congress to represent everybody, and this includes those who make \$7.25 an hour. I came to Congress to represent those who wait tables and make \$2.13 an hour plus tips. It's unconscionable to have people working at \$2.13 an hour in the richest country in the world who cannot get health insurance. That's what the Affordable Care Act does. It allows them to get health insurance.

And I must remind us all today, my dear friends, whom I love—I love every person who sits on that side of the aisle; I love every one of them—but I want to tell you this: mark my words, Dr. King was right. Life is an inescapable network of mutuality. It's tied to a single garment of destiny. What impacts one directly impacts all indirectly. And while you can sit at home in comfort, assuming that it does not impact you, I assure you, the way the arc of the moral universe has been developed, it will impact you sooner or later.

You are not worried about Wall Street right now. But when Wall Street takes a hit, it's going to eventually trickle down to every one of us. Worry about Home Street. I do. Worry about Main Street. That's okay. But I am not going to put Wall Street above Home Street, where people live.

And it's time for us to quit pushing a piecemeal startup for a wholesale shutdown. This is the richest country in the world. We shouldn't carry on like this. It's time for us to move forward and end the shutdown.

Let's have free and fair and open negotiations. Let's not do it with the threat of the demise of the government at stake. Let's do it with everybody's intent in mind. Let's not pick and choose. Let's not say one is blessed today and another will be blessed tomorrow. Let's share the blessings of this Nation with all of the people that we represent.

And finally, Dr. King reminded us that injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. I say to my veteran friends, whom I support, you should not feel good knowing that somebody has decided to bless you at the expense of somebody else.

#### FRUSTRATION OVER THE STALEMATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Alabama (Mrs. ROBY) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. ROBY. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to express my frustration and the frustration of my constituents over the stalemate here in Washington.

It didn't have to come to this. The House has put forth four proposals to the Senate, each one offering a compromise to the other side. Time after time Senator REID stonewalled our efforts to forge a compromise and prevent a shutdown. When House Republicans passed legislation that simply asked Senate Democrats to just simply come to the table to negotiate, Senator REID said no.

Everyone knows that Republicans and Democrats don't see eye to eye on every spending issue. However, there is a lot that we do agree on, like funding critical care for cancer research, the national parks, veterans services, National Guardsmen and Reservists. And when we have drafted stand-alone bills funding these efforts, we saw support from some Senate Democrats. But again, Mr. REID said no.

So first we couldn't get Mr. REID to negotiate over what we disagree on, and today we can't get him to even consider what we do agree on.

Mr. Speaker, I don't know how many more olive branches we have left on the tree, but today we are going to offer more. We have already worked to ensure that young boys and girls who need cancer treatments from the National Institutes of Health receive the lifesaving medicine they deserve.

Today, we will work to protect our Nation's military men and women who have served so honorably in combat, only to have their hard-earned benefits denied to them by partisan bickering.

Finally, and most importantly, we will work to end this shutdown, not just for some Americans, but for all Americans, because, Mr. Speaker, this has always been an issue of fairness.